



KILLERS

An insight into murders' minds ●●●●●

Bathed in harsh white spotlights, three of Britain's most notorious killers – Dennis Nilsen, Ian Brady and Peter Sutcliffe – sit in front of the audience, reading letters they've written to admirers from their prisons or secure hospitals. But if you're hoping for fresh insights into the minds of these men from Glenn Chandler's play, there are few to be found – it's perhaps not surprising, in fact, how banal much of their correspondence is.

More interesting is the mirror that the show holds up to our own fascination with these horribly charismatic figures – that of both the unseen letter writers, with their strange need for connection with mass murderers, and of the Assembly Rooms audience itself, with its own voyeuristic interest.

Director Liam Rudden's tight production is slick and polished, pitch-perfect in its cold, clinical tone. Arron Usher is a perhaps overly camp, flouncing Nilsen; Gareth Morrison is both sappy and sinister as Sutcliffe; and Edward Cory's Brady is convincingly chilling. The show drags in places, and could have done with a more dramatic sense of structure, but it's still solid, thought-provoking work. (David Kettle)

■ *Assembly Rooms*, 0844 693 3008, until 25 Aug, £15 (£12).